

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 to read as follows:

Therefore , when the reactor is operating, a situation occurs wherein the coils which undergo the greatest thermal load are those which are supplied with less water and are prone to have an ever increasing degree of ~~vaporisation~~vaporization and an ever decreasing capacity of drawing off the heat. This brings to a far from optimum distribution of temperature within the catalytic bed, in case of slightly exothermic reactions such as the methanol synthesis whilst in case of fast and strongly exothermic reactions such as the formaldehyde synthesis, this may even bring to a temperature sharp rise.

Page 5, please amend the first full paragraph to read as follows:

Further on, the excessive ~~vaporisation~~vaporization promotes the formation inside the tubes of deposits of residues present in the water to the detriment of the heat exchange efficiency of the tubes themselves.

Page 6, please amend the third full paragraph to read as follows:

Thanks to the present invention, it is advantageously possible to ~~realise~~realize - in an easy and cost-effective way - an isothermal reactor with a high heat exchange coefficient, to all advantage of the conversion yield and of the energy consumption.

Page 15, please amend the second full paragraph to read as follows:

On the other hand, the structure with all the tubes 13 being connected to each other, is particularly easy to be ~~realised~~realized, as it needs only one feed duct 14 and one drawing off duct 16 for the cooling or heating fluid.

Page 16, please amend the fourth full paragraph to read as follows:

In doing so, it is possible to adapt the distance of the tubes 13 according to the amount of heat to be drawn off or to be supplied, in other words, following the temperature profile in the catalytic bed 3, to all advantage of the degree of heat exchange efficiency, which ~~favourably~~ favorably affects the conversion yield and the energy consumption.

Page 20, please amend the third full paragraph to read as follows:

Such fluid is introduced into the reactor 1 through the nozzle 15 and fed to the lower tubes 13 of each group through the ducts 14. Then it passes through the tubes 13 of each respective group that are connected in correspondence of their free ends by connecting pipes 19, it is drawn off from the upper tubes 13 of the respective groups through the ducts 16 and evacuated from reactor through the gas outlet duct 11.